

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, first paragraph:

Priority is claimed on Japanese application no. 2003-012664, filed ~~February 21,~~
2003 January 21, 2003, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Page 9, first paragraph:

FIG. 7 is a graph showing results calculated illustrating the propagation constant β of a guided mode of the wavelength of $1.55 \mu\text{m}$ calculated for x polarization and y polarization, using a $1.55 \mu\text{m}$ -band optical fiber (Corning Inc. SMF28 equivalent) and a $0.98 \mu\text{m}$ -band optical fiber (Corning Inc. CS980 equivalent) which is simply elongated as one optical fiber (in other words, heated and stretched). The horizontal axis shows the elongating ratio, which illustrates how thin an optical fiber becomes in relation to the original condition thereof when elongated. An elongating ratio of 100% means that an optical fiber is not elongated. An elongating ratio of 50% means that, as a result of elongation, the outer diameter of the optical fiber has been reduced to half of the original diameter ($62.5 \mu\text{m}$). In FIG. 7, the values of the propagation constant β calculated for x polarization (the line: $\beta_{1.55x}(\text{SMF28})$) and y polarization (the line: $\beta_{1.55y}(\text{SMF28})$) for the $1.55 \mu\text{m}$ -band optical fiber nearly overlap. Similarly, the values of the propagation constant β calculated for x polarization (the line: $\beta_{1.55x}(\text{CS980})$) and y polarization (the line: $\beta_{1.55y}(\text{CS980})$) for the $0.98 \mu\text{m}$ -band optical fiber completely overlap.